

# Strategy against climate change

The status quo is that the world will continue to deteriorate if we do not reduce emissions. **We need good strategies and tactics to fight against climate change.** We have to be careful about formulating the right strategy. The reason is that if our strategy is correct, we will have the final victory even if we lose most of the battles. But, if we use the wrong strategy, we will never win the total campaign even if we win most of the battles.

Before we can make a strategy, we must make some analyses so we are more likely to find the correct solutions. My plan comes from the study of attitudes towards emission within each social class, generation, and current condition. I will also discuss the difference between the closed door approach with our strategy.

Moreover, a brief review of the present environmental situation, current status of a global environmental revolution, and international aids.

**Let's look at the attitudes towards climate change within each social class in the American society first.**

Our first main point is that the small scale agricultural workers and outdoor workers are most affected by climate change in a bad way. Therefore, the working class is the most determined force in the environmental movement.

Farmers and ranchers are facing challenges from floods and droughts that can damage plants and reduce production. Moreover, growing crops can be delicate in extreme temperatures and precipitation. [For example](#), increased temperatures reduced corn production across the U.S. Corn Belt in 2010 and 2012

because it sped up corn development. Warmer winters caused the premature budding of Michigan cherries and created a \$220 million loss in 2012.<sup>3</sup> Yet, in some areas, farmers can benefit from growing crops that need warm temperatures. There is an opportunity for colder areas in Europe to grow tropical Southeast Asian fruits like bananas, but the yields will decline as the temperature exceeds the crop's optimum temperature. [Heat stress](#) can increase the risk of livestock disease, reduce reproduction rate, and reduce milk production. In 2011, agricultural producers lost over 1 billion USD due to high-temperature events. Livestock and poultry accounted for over half of U.S. agricultural cash receipts.<sup>3</sup> The loss of produce will definitely irritate the agricultural producers, especially small scale producers because they could lose more than half of their income and find it difficult to live.

Here is a real story from Thai farmers: Ampai Meelap, 43, a durian farmer who faces the challenge of climate change. Her durian plantation in eastern Thailand has lost yields due to drought and irregular rainfall patterns. She needs to create new maintenance expenses for her farm because the changing weather brings more plant diseases. Many of her friends have also reported losing crops due to changing weather patterns. Some even fall into debt due to the loss of their income.<sup>32</sup>

Climate change is affecting the health of a large number of outdoor workers. UV radiation, heat waves, and many more consequences of climate change can impact their safety and wellbeing. [An article](#) called *Ozone Depletion and Climate Change: Impacts on UV Radiation* reported that climate change can increase UV radiation levels in low latitude areas by decreasing the amount of ozone in the atmosphere.<sup>19</sup> [The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#) claimed that increased

exposure to UV radiation will increase risk of adverse eye effects and skin cancer.<sup>1 6</sup> [A Vox article](#) also claimed that heat Waves can lead to heat strokes and heat exhaustion.<sup>1 5</sup> Furthermore, [one article](#) called *The Impact of Air Pollution on Allergic Diseases* claimed that strong epidemiological evidence supports a relationship between air pollution and the exacerbation of asthma and other respiratory diseases.<sup>3 0</sup> Outdoor workers should be irritated when they find out that artificial climate change increased their health problems.

The second main idea is that climate change can harm people's physical and mental health and disturb their working condition. The world's lower-middle-class is demanding to fight back.

[Firstly, increased temperatures](#) will increase the ozone levels in the earth's atmosphere which may contribute to Sick Building Syndrome. The Sick Building Syndrome is an umbrella term that

doctors use to refer to the issue that office workers are complaining about. The main symptoms are headaches, rashes, and dry eyes. [Smithsonian magazine](#) claimed that ozone can react with cleaning chemicals and create potentially toxic chemicals like aldehydes. John Spengler, a professor of Environmental Health at Harvard School, says that aldehydes can cause irritations in the eyes, nose, and throat.<sup>1</sup> <sup>8</sup> Therefore, we can infer that climate change upsets the lower middle class because it makes them sick and disturbs their work.

Secondly, climate change can cause water-related illnesses, vector borne diseases, and violate food safety laws, [according to the U.S. Global Change Research Program](#), thus affecting our physical health.<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> As a result, people have to pay more for extra health conditions and the lower-middle-class do not have much money to buy insurance for most ailments. [Gallup, an analytics and advisory company](#), conducted a study on the percentage of

Americans postponing medical care due to costs, by asking questions in a Health and Healthcare poll. The study found that 25% of Americans have delayed medical treatment for serious illness due to the costs and 33% reported delaying medical treatment for any condition.<sup>2<sup>5</sup></sup> It is understandable that most of the participants are of lower income since they most likely have less money to purchase insurance or treatment. [One study](#), published by the American Journal of Public Health in 2009, showed the relationship between American death and health insurance by using a model that only includes age, gender and lack of health insurance factor. The study showed that about 45,000 Americans die every year due to no health insurance coverage.<sup>3<sup>4</sup></sup> Losing someone who we care about is very painful and this relationship between mortality and no insurance could apply to other countries too. Climate change is a threat to the physical

health of the lower middle class since they have less tolerance to it.

Thirdly, climate change can cause mental disorders, such as anxiety, depression by creating social and environmental stressors ([according to the U.S. Global change Research program](#)).<sup>31</sup> Lower middle class find it hard to afford mental health treatment. [The National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#): Mental Health findings showed the opinion of 45.6 millions American who had Any Mental Illness on mental treatment in 2011. The data collection method involves in-person interviews with sample persons, incorporating procedures to increase respondents' cooperation, and willingness to report honestly about sensitive topics, such as illicit drug use behavior and mental health issues.<sup>24</sup> [The report](#) claimed that 50% of American adults said that treatment costs are too high. It also claimed that 15% of mentally ill Americans said insurance is their main obstacle to seek care.<sup>20</sup> Climate change

can irritate many people especially those who cannot get treatment, which include the lower middle class.

The third main point that we should discuss is that most elites are less likely to reduce climate change because they have a stake in emitting greenhouse gases. They tend to work for companies and organizations such as fossil fuels firms and sectors that rely on fossil fuels and that benefit from polluting. PTT Public Company Limited is the number one top oil and gas company in Thailand. It takes part in oil and gas exploration and production and has a gasoline retailing business. [PTT released](#) a direct GHG emission of 29.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and an indirect emission of 1.58 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2012.<sup>9</sup> You might argue that there are elites who donate money to reduce climate change. However, [Oxfam claimed](#) that the richest 10% of people produce half of the emissions.<sup>3 5</sup> Let's look at the graphs: The electricity consumption of high income people is more than 11 times of

lower-middle income people. Most of them are less likely to reduce emission because they are used to a large consumption life.



## Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) - High income

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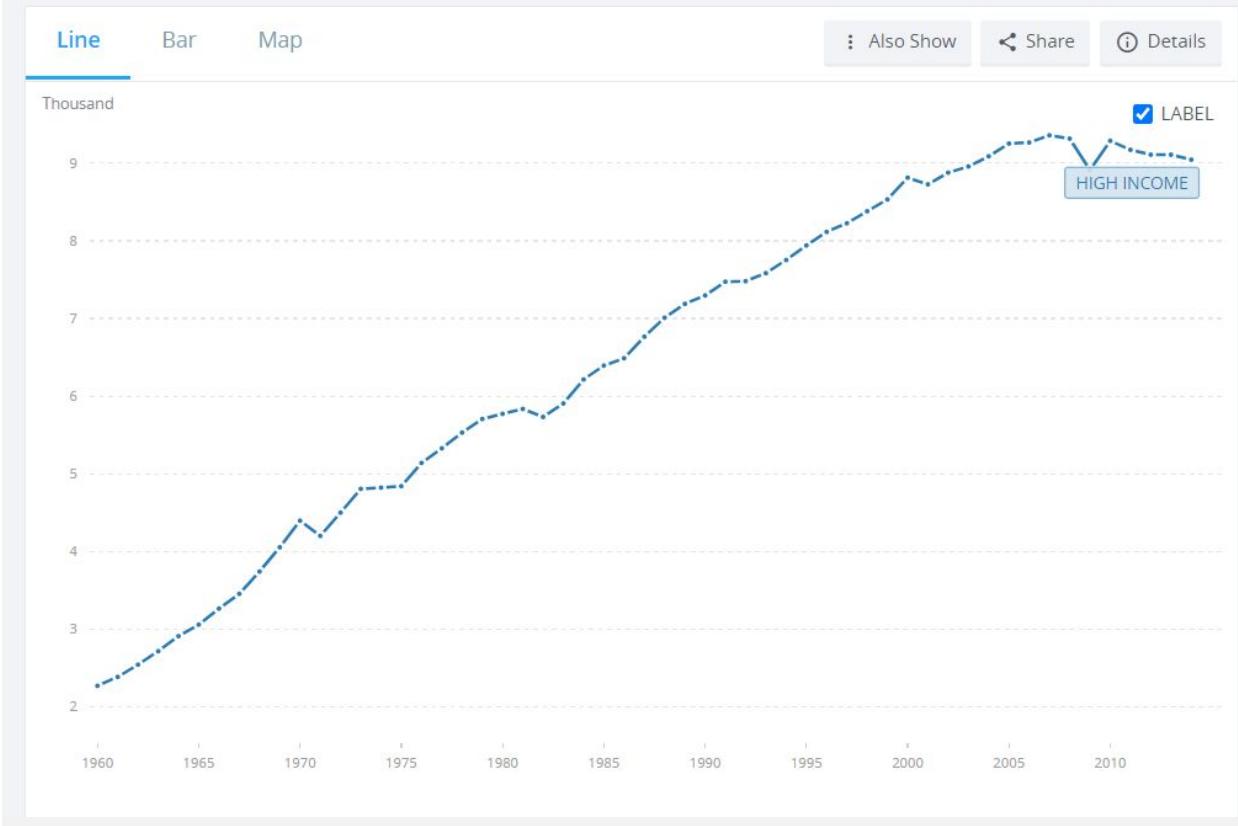


Figure 1: A graph showing Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) for High Income Citizens [Source: [data.worldbank.org](http://data.worldbank.org), 2014]<sup>4</sup>



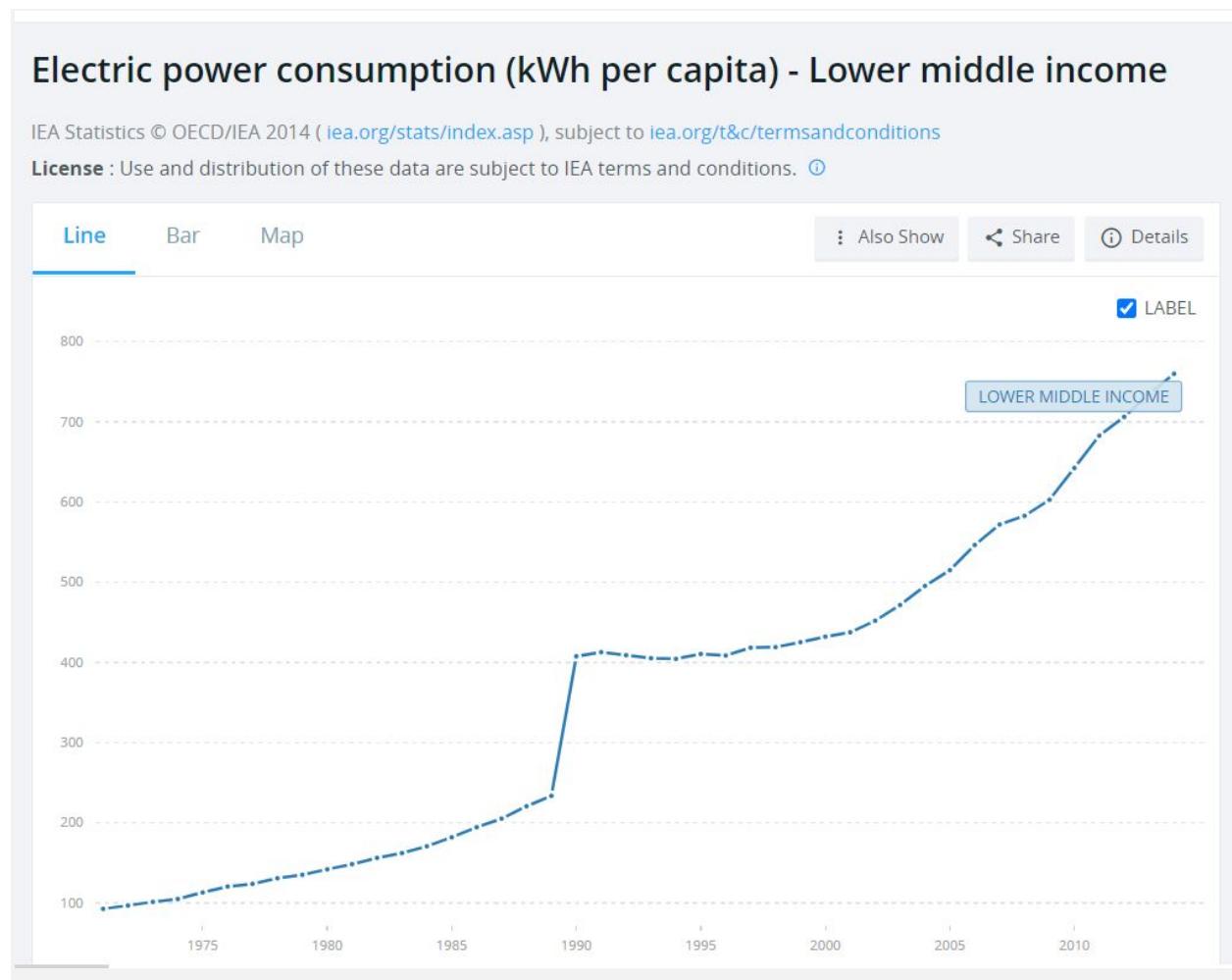


Figure 2 : A graph showing Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) for Lower-Middle Income Citizens [Source: [data.worldbank.org](http://data.worldbank.org), 2014]<sup>5</sup>

Another reason is that they have the capital to be safe from adverse environmental shocks. [Philip Alston](#), the UN Special

Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said that we are risking a climate apartheid scenario. This term means that the wealthy are able to pay to escape overheating while the rest of the world cannot avoid it.<sup>2</sup> If I am a rich man in Africa, I can immigrate to cold weather countries or open air conditioning all day. It is obvious that poor people will find it hard to do the same things like elites

The fourth main concept is that the upper-middle class is more complex because of their vacillation and indecision. On one hand, they dislike climate change, on the other hand, they fear the zero-emissions lifestyle. I classify myself as part of the upper-middle class and I am used to a comfortable life with much consumption, like electricity usage and food. As we see in figure 3, the electricity consumption of the upper-middle class is four times lower income class consumption in figure 2. But, I do not like the side effects of climate change, and I am also afraid of how others

look at me when I am on the side of harming humans or the earth.

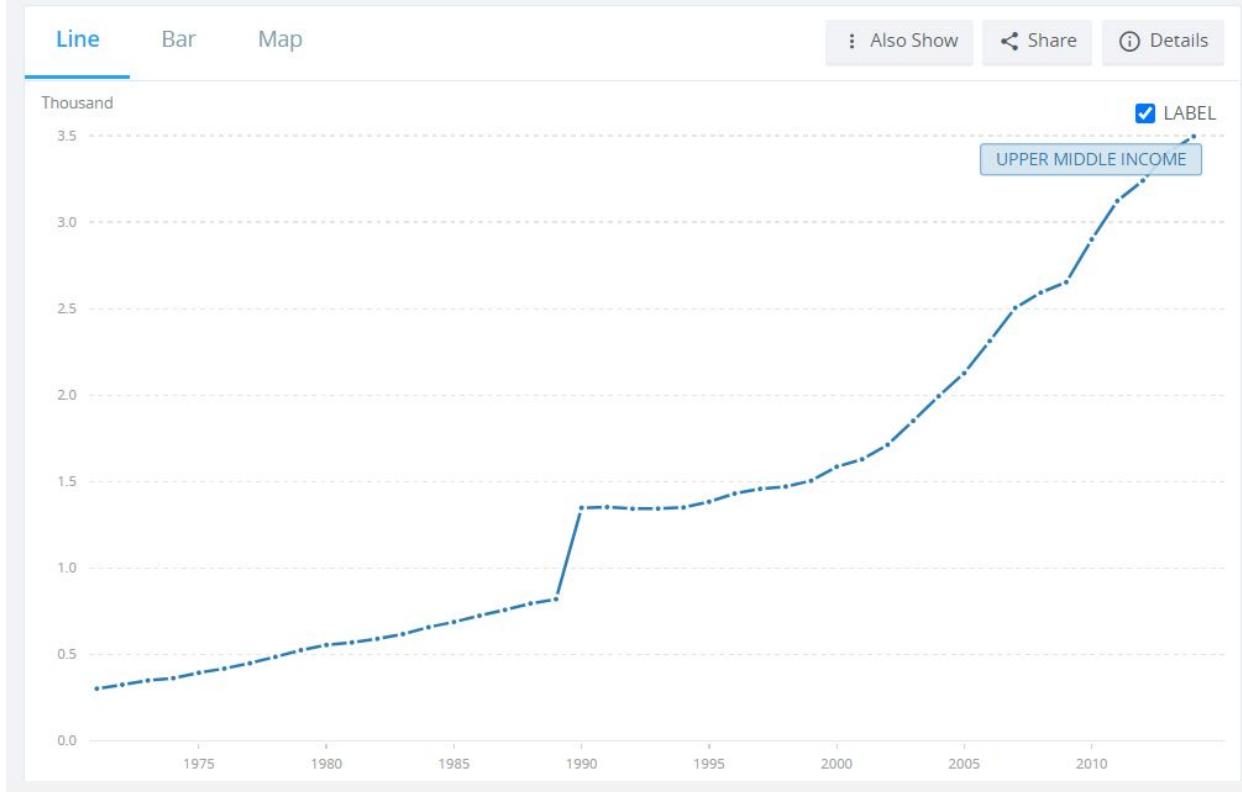
It is understandable that many people have similar opinions as I do, no matter what class they are. The common characteristics of the upper middle class opens up the possibility of taking part in the fight against emissions such as a political movement. One part of the upper-middle class (the left wing) is likely to take part in the struggle, while the other parts may waver and adopt a neutral attitude.



## Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) - Upper middle income

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**Figure 3:** A graph showing Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) for Upper middle Income Citizens [Source: [data.worldbank.org](http://data.worldbank.org), 2014]<sup>6</sup>

Let's use me and my cousin as examples.

[My political compass is left-libertarians](#), but I still do not want to protest the government for climate change now. If one day Thailand has an impactful climate change protest with millions of people like in Germany, then I will join the movement. I also classified my cousin living in Hongkong as an upper-middle-class. He told me he would do nothing to help climate change until the government tells him to do it. (neutral part). Even though the upper middle class can turn side back and forth, they are still a valuable power to reduce climate change.

**Let's look at the attitudes towards climate change within each generation.**

The current world's millennials and generation Z are the most determined force in the environmental movement. It is them who have to live in a polluted world for another 80+ years. For instance, PM2.5 is polluting many main cities, such as Beijing and

Bangkok and people have to constantly wear masks to reduce potential health risks (as we can see from the news). [The world economic forum](#) did a survey which presented the opinions of Millennial on climate change by collecting information from more than 30,000 individuals under 30 from 186 countries. The report claimed that over 90% of young people agree or strongly agree that humans are responsible for climate change. It also claimed that the millennial generation views climate change as one of the top issues that we face.<sup>12</sup> This evidence shows that young people are very likely to take part in activities concerning the environment.

On the other hand, most of the older generation are well-meaning but lack actions to help. The reason is that it is not them who will have to live in a polluted world. [Here are some answers from older people in the video Funny or Die and Defend Our future](#). The 86 year-old Ed Asner said, “Worry about climate change is after I’m

dead .” Another man said that “I would be dead, silly”.<sup>21</sup> Most of the older generations cannot do any impactful actions due to their physical condition as well.

## **Next, let's look at the condition in an environmentalism camp.**

The struggling students and youth had broken out into a fight. School strikes for the climate in Germany and Italy have over 1 million protesters currently as seen in [figure 4. ZDF news claimed](#) that people make more than 570 actions and demonstrations in cities across Germany. The movement receives great support from environmental organizations such as Greenpeace.<sup>23</sup> Young people are probably the one of the largest protest groups against climate change.



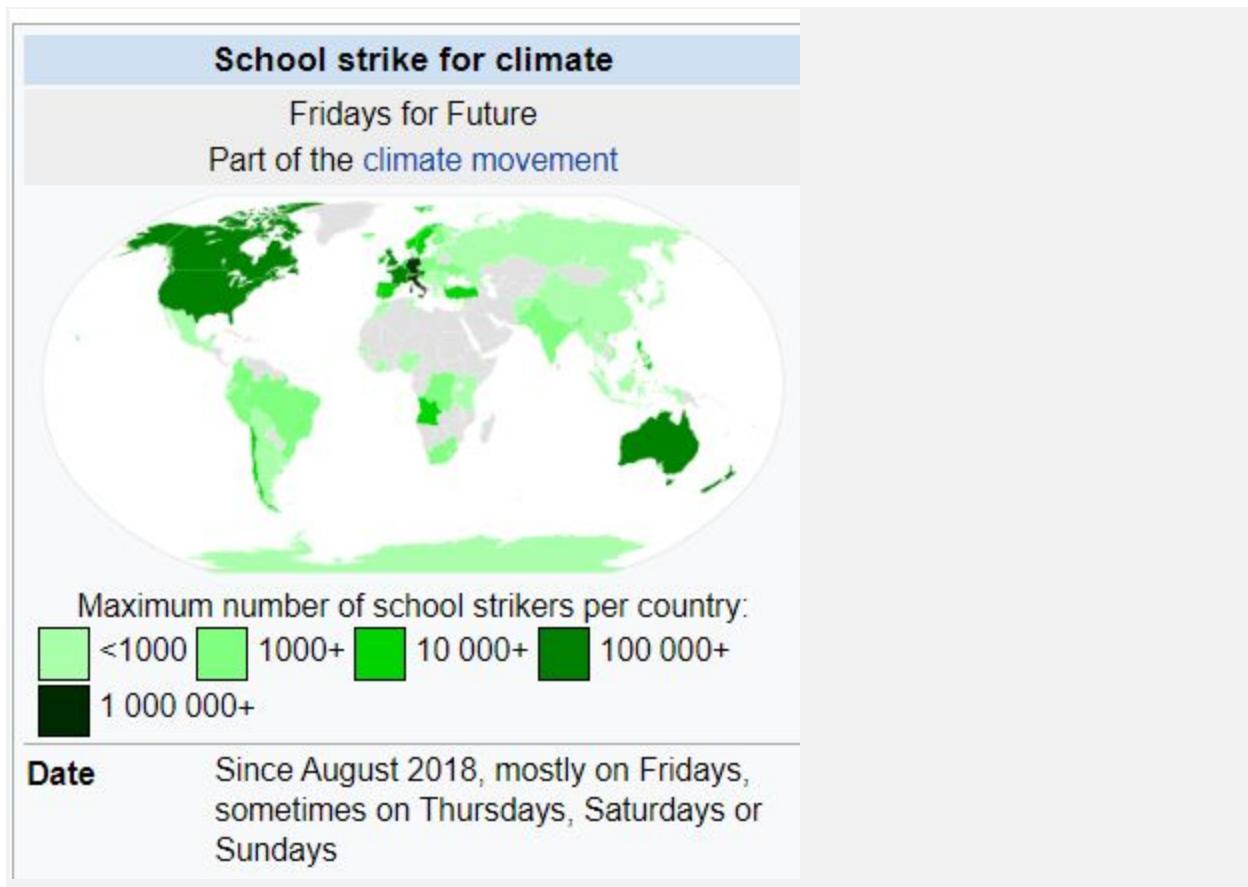


Figure 4: Maximum number of school strikers per country

[Source : Wikipedia, 2019]<sup>27</sup>

Moreover, the working class has not stopped fighting against climate change. [The Guardian claimed](#) that working-class people have been the most active environmentalists but have not been recognized for centuries. Here's a picture of Green New Deal's

policies put forward in the UK and the US to place environmentalism back in the labor movement.<sup>2</sup> <sup>6</sup> [The Green New Deal](#) in the UK will create millions of good climate-improving related jobs in sectors such as the renewable sector and insulating homes and building new infrastructure, which will reduce climate change consequently. Working class people are doing a great job at slowing down climate change consistently.

Student movements have also grown very huge but need to integrate with Millennials and devoted environmentalists to be sustainable. An adult devoted environmentalist is more likely to lead and maintain the group better than a 10-year-old kid. It is understandable that they have better knowledge and experience about the world.

Moreover, most nations, under the immediate threat of climate change, are rising to fight. As we can see in [figure 4](#), most

countries are having climate strikes. [The Years Project](#) claimed that recording-breaking heat waves have killed thousands of people in India.<sup>10</sup> This could be one of the reasons that caused a climate strike of over 10,000 people in India. [The climate reality project](#) claimed that the Climate change boosted the storm in Japan in July 2018, which damaged hundreds of thousands of homes and killed over 200 lives.<sup>14</sup> This could be one of the reasons that caused a climate strike of over 1,000 people in Japan. People around the world are starting to be aware or have become aware of the threat of climate change, and most of them have stood up to fight against it.

**After we have analysed these different situations, it becomes obvious what the strategy will be. The strategy is to establish and expand the coalition against climate change. The more people we have, the more powerful we are.**

**Let's look at the difference between the coalition and a closed-door approach.** The coalition requires the recruitment of a vast number of personnel, to encircle the enemy and defeat them. By organizing a broad national movement coalition, we can reunite millions of people and all possible movement allies to attack the supporters of emissions. Then, we can drive the enemy into small and isolated areas. The logic is that everyone has a threshold number of joining the group of movements, but all are different. Some may need zero people to start a movement, and some may need ten people to join a movement. Greta Thunberg is a model leader in the movement, and she started from zero. The closed-door doctrine requires that only one group can create the only movement force to fight with the powerful enemy. It believes that the road of movement is straight and simple without obstacles. This is not the correct movement strategy. Our movement force should consist of many types and classes of

people. Everything in the world can change and twist, and the situation of the movement is always changing. We must support the coalition and oppose the closed-door doctrine.

### **Let's look at the present environmentalism situation.**

First, the environmentalism power of the world is greater than ever. [The Guardian](#) claimed that the 20 September 2019 protests were the largest climate strikes in world history.<sup>17</sup>

However, anti-environmentalism forces are greater than environmentalism forces. The people who have large power in the main countries are still biased toward anti-environmentalism. If you look at the news, Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jin Ping, are not listening to Greta Thunberg. Greta Thunberg is a popular devoted environmentalist. In Greta's speech: Thunberg accused world leaders of stealing her dreams and childhood with their

inaction on climate change. President Trump did not accept her demand and appeared to mock her on Twitter. “She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!” Moreover, [The guardian](#) claimed that Donald Trump is moving to exit the Paris climate agreement.<sup>13</sup> [The New York Times](#) claimed that he rolled back 100 Environmental Rules.<sup>22</sup> These three pieces of evidence showed that Donald Trump is not on the side of environmentalism. These powerful people need to make economic growth to sustain their reputation and political position. A [post carbon institute](#) conducted a survey to revise the opportunities and challenges for renewable energy transition in four important sectors of the energy economy. They concluded that renewable energy will probably not maintain the growth-based consumer economy and there are more challenges than opportunities.<sup>11</sup> The powerful people in most countries are still biased to

anti-environmentalism, which is giving a hard time for environmentalism to win climate change.

Third, Environmentalism's victory begins where anti-environmentalism forces are weaker. I can see two factors why France is number 2 in the Environmental Performance Index. France has over 100,000 Protesters and France's president and prime minister are on the side of environmentalism. [DW](#) [reported](#) that President Emmanuel Macron pledged 30 million euros for climate research.<sup>7</sup> [The POLITICO reported](#) that the Prime minister announced several environmental measures to the French parliament during a formal address.<sup>27</sup> As we see from Figure 4, European countries have a large number of protestants and Asian countries have only a small number of protesters overall. [Many European countries are in the top 30 of the Environmental Performance Index \(EPI\) but only few Asian countries are.](#)<sup>8</sup> Most Asian countries are developing countries,

mostly relying on the manufacturing sector, which will harm the environment even more because it produces emissions. If we want to win we can start from gathering more protesters and vote for the environmentalists.

Fourth, the imbalance between environmentalism and anti-environmentalism forces leads to a protracted battle. [I will explain why in other articles.](#)

Lastly, the world is on the eve of a global environmentalist movement. As we can see from the figure 4, there are more countries that have climate strikes than countries that do not have climate strikes. The number will keep increasing until we have the global environmentalist movement.

**Next, let's look at the current status of a global environmental revolution.**

The devoted environmental activists and green political parties are the initiators and pillars of the coalition against climate change. As long as the devoted environmental activists and green political parties exist and develop, the coalition against climate change will certainly continue to exist and develop. Devoted environmentalists can make us unite by saying that everyone has a stake in climate change and that we should prevent anti-environmentalism from destroying the coalition. For example, Greta Thunberg is the initiator of the school strike for climate change that has over five millions protestant all over the world. They devoted environmental activists are necessary for a coalition against climate change.

Emission creators will fight for power in society with environmentalists. The present stage of the world belongs to the rich's anti-environmentalist nature, not of the environmentalist nature of all classes. As we can see in the picture, the wealth

pyramid showed that the top 1% own half of world wealth.<sup>33</sup> But, a coalition of people who care about the environment can effectively take hold of the power instead. The reason is that emission creators get benefits from people and if people are against them, they will not gain many benefits. Finally, the victory will belong to the environmentalists..

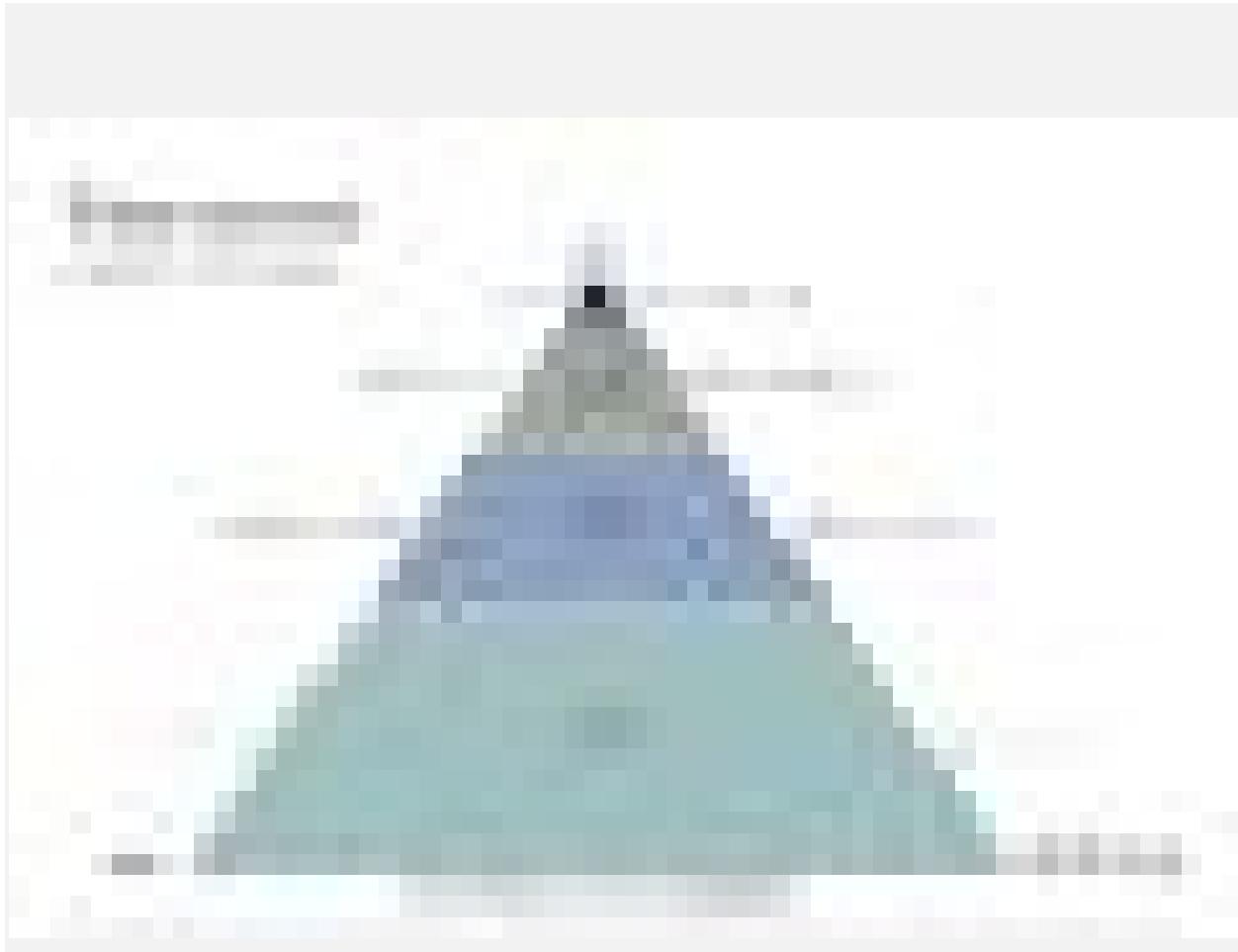


Figure 1

**The global wealth pyramid**

Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberas and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2013

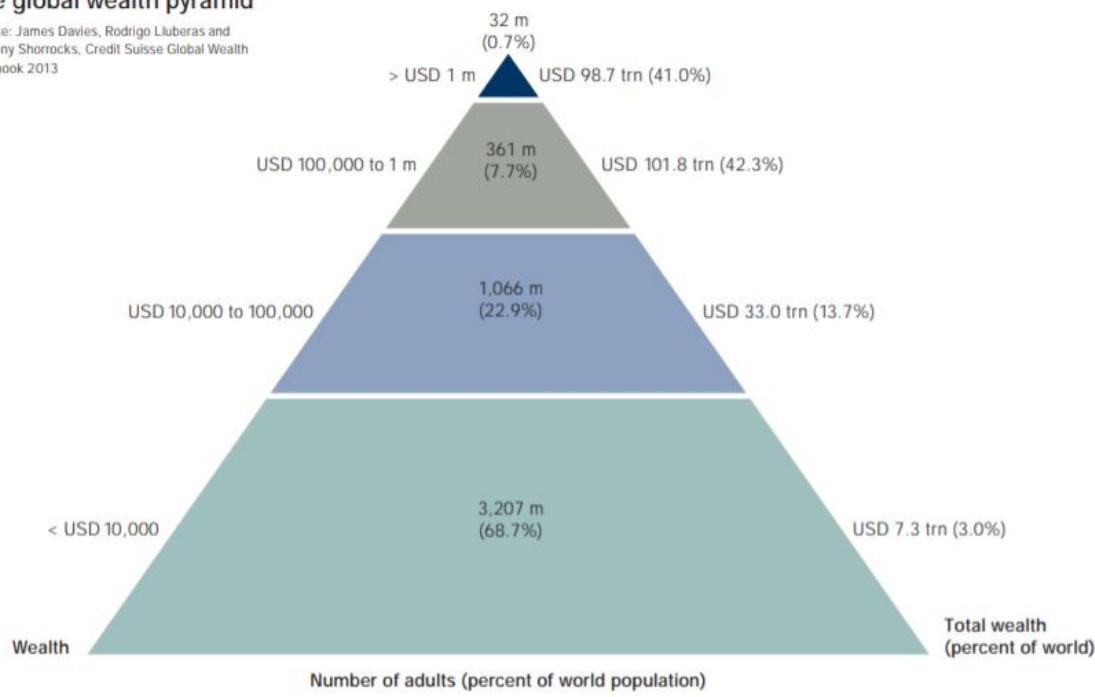


Figure 5 : The global wealth pyramid [Source : Global Wealth Report, 2013]<sup>33</sup>

### **Lastly, let's look at international aids**

International aid from people of all nations is necessary to help the war against anti-environmentalism . It can give positive voices to support and motivate people in specific countries.

Environmentalism needs the aid of all people and needs them to understand the stake of the situation in our environment. The reason is that all nations are creating climate change; we need all nations to reduce climate change, not just specific ones. We need to tell people that climate change is related to them, so they will have reason to join the movement. International aid is necessary for victory.

To conclude, our strategy is to establish and expand the coalition against climate change. We must accept anyone to join our movement. We must help each other and cooperate with others in different classes, ages, and races to fight against climate change. We must support people in other countries to form a coalition against climate change, which will lead to another step towards the final victory. When

we form an unbreakable international coalition of people, it is nearly the final victory.

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